end of March, 1993, viz., at (1) Tentulikhunti (2) MV 79 (3) Deogaon (4) Rajkishore Nagar (5) Belda (6) Ramgiri (7) Bhojpur (8) Kotihar (9) Sujanpur and (10) Biribati.

123 exchanges have been provided with STD facilities during the current year from 1-4-92 to 28-2-93. 11 more exchanges are likely to be provided with STD facility by end of March, 1993 at Simulia (2) Baramba (3) Narasingpur (4) Telkoi (5) Tirtol (6) Binka (7) Jaipatna (8) Motu (9) R. Udaygiri (10) Kalimela and (11) M. V. 79.

Statement-II

Principal features of plan for telecom. development/expansion in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa are indicated below :—

(i) All the electro-mechanical exchanges have been replaced by electronic exchanges during 1992-93;

(ii) 160 public telephones at Gram Panchayat headquarters already opened by February, 1993 and 30 more public telephones at Gram Panchayat headquarters are expected by March, 1993;

(iii) 2500 lines C. DOT MAX exchange at Baripada, 512 Port ILT exchange at Udala and Betnoti and 512 P. C. DOT exchange at Karanjia are planned for installation during 1993-94;

(iv) Telecom. facilities are planned to be provided at all Gram Panchayat headquarters by March, 1995;

(v) Reliable transmission media on optical fibre and UHF have been planned for important stations in Mayurbhanj District during 8th Plan period and STD facility is likely to be provided to all exchanges in this district by March, 1995.

Telegraph Office at Abohar in Punjab

3413. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the teleprinters installed in the telegraph office at Abobhar in Punjab are more than 25 years old and have become incapable to meet heavy rush of telegrams;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to replace these teleprinters with the electronic ones;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the telegraph office is located in a very small room to accommodate the staff posted there and a machine installed there for booking of telegrams is lying unused for the last ten years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the teleprinters installed at ABOHAR Posts & Telegraph Combined office are old. But the Machines are working quite satisfactory.

(b) Yes, Sir. These old model machines will be replaced by Electronic Teleprinters which have already been received at Abohar.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Additional accommodation has already been made available and the present accommodation is found to be adequate. The cash registerex machine for booking is faulty. Action has been initiated by the Deptt. of Posts to get the machine repaired in this combined Posts & Telegraph office.

Telephone system operating with Solar Energy

3414. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a French Company TRT has developed a telephone system operating with the solar energy for use in non-accessible remote and hilly terrains; and

(b) If so, whether Government consider adopting this eco-friendly system for linking up far-flung rural and hilly areas in the country to provide communications links ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Department of Telecommunications is aware of such a system.

(b) Department of Telecommunications is already using Analogue telephone systems operating with solar energy in rural/remote areas. The Department is also consider-

ing the use of such systems with latest digital technology in the Rural/Remote areas.

Cellular phone system in the country

3415. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the advantages of Cellular phone system to the overall telecom. scenario;

(b) whether it is a fact that there would be no advantage to phone subscribers in small town and rural areas; and

(c) if so, whether there is re-thinking on the decision to introduce cellular phones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Advantages of Cellular phone system are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir, the service will be useful in small towns also.

(c) No Sir, at present there is no rethinking on the decision to introduce cellular phones.

Statement

1. Subscribers of this service can communicate even when they are moving in a vehicle or located anywhere in the service area.

2. The system provides a high reliability since a landbased subscriber cable network is not necessary.

3. Executives and businessmen can keep in touch with their offices while they are located anywhere in the service area or while on move in their vehicles.

4. Since the system provides for mobile communications, it will be very useful for public utility services such as fire brigade, ambulances etc. The service will also be useful at building construction sites and other places where physical wired network is not readily available.

STD facilities in Cuddapah District of Andhra Pradesh

3416. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of centres in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh which are having STD facilities;

(b) what is the number of cut of them which were provided in the year 1992-93; and

(c) what are the places that will be provided with STD facilities during the year 1993-94 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Five stations have been provided STD facility in Cuddapah district so far.

(b) Two stations have been provided STD facility till 15th March, 1993 during the year 1992-93. One more station is planned to be provided STD service by 31-3-1993.

(c) Badvel, Pulivendla, Rayachoti and Mydukur are planned to be provided STD service during 1993-94.

Reforms in Indian Telephone Industries

3417. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has submitted any report suggesting reform in our Indian Telephone Industries and the Hindustan Cables;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps that have been taken by Government to produce more Telecommunication equipment to meet our requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In respect of both ITI and HCL the report has suggested that the Companies